VI. *A Letter from Mr.* John Bonnet, Surgeon *at* Fowye *in* Cornwall, *to* Claudius Amyand, *Esq*; Serjeant-Surgeon *to his Majesty*, F. R. S. *concerning the preternatural Structure of the* Pudenda *in a Woman, described in* Phil. Transact. N° 379.

AS there appears to be some Difference in the Accounts of the remarkable Structure of the *Pudenda*, &c. of the Woman of *Lanteglass*, near *Fowye*, publish'd in the *Philosophical Transactions* N° 379. I take the Liberty of giving you a particular Account of what I observ'd, with respect to this Matter. This I am the rather embolden'd to do, as I repeatedly observ'd the wonderful Structure of the Parts, before the Birth approach'd, and before I was oblig'd to make the Incision.

This Woman was about 23 Years old when she was married, and some time after conceiv'd. As she was conscious of the preternatural Structure of the Parts, and her Mother apprehensive of the Danger that wou'd attend the Delivery under such unhappy Circumstances; they apply'd to me about the 7th Month, in order to engage my Assistance.

On viewing the *Abdomen*, I made the following Observations; There was no Sign of the *Umbilicus*; but about three Inches lower, than that is regularly plac'd in Persons naturally form'd, there was a spongy, fleshy Extuberance, nearly of the Shape and Bigness of an Hen-Egg: Not, as is said in Mr. *O*....'s Account, compos'd of many Lobules invelop'd by distinct Membranes, but

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but entirely reſembling that luxuriant Fleſh which is thrown forth in ill-digeſted Wounds, and is therefore commonly call'd proud Fleſh. This was exceeding tender, and on it ſhe cou'd not bear the leaſt Touch. On the lower Part of this Excreſence, I perceiv'd two ſmall Orifices, the one diſtant from the other about an Inch. Thro' theſe the Urine drops continually, nor is ſhe able to retain it; but by violent Efforts can make it ſpout out near a Foot. What is ſaid in Mr. *O*....'s Account of its being render'd *multis rivulis*, is certainly erroneous: The two Orifices, by which it is in deed diſcharg'd, being now very evident, and will eaſily admit a ſmall Probe.

About $\frac{1}{4}$ Inch below this Protuberance, was a tranſverſe Orifice, much reſembling the *Anus* of a Cock. Through this the *Menſtrua* regularly flow'd: By this ſhe was impregnated. 'Twas with ſome Difficulty I thruſt my Finger into this Orifice, in order to reach the *Os Tincæ*, which, however, I could by no means feel, it lay ſo deep; but I plainly felt a thick tranſverſe Membrane ſeparating this Paſſage from an Orifice, which is ſituated about two Inches below that already deſcrib'd. This lower Orifice ſeem'd to be ſituated, exactly where the *Symphyſis* of the *Oſſa Pubis* is, in Women regularly form'd, ſomewhat above the Place where the natural *Hiatus* ſhou'd have been. I cou'd but juſt enter the Tip of my Finger into this. There were a few Hairs ſcatter'd up and down irregularly about this Orifice. The *Anus* terminated as uſual, with a Sphincter, about two Inches below this lower Orifice, much more forward than uſual.

So that the upper Orifice, which may be properly call'd the Orifice of the *Vagina*, was about $\frac{1}{4}$ Inch below the umbilical Excreſcence: The lower oblong Orifice (or another Paſſage to the Womb) was about two

Inches below that of the *Vagina*: Contrary to what is ſaid in Mr. *O*....'s Account, who makes the ſuperior Orifice to be near four Inches below the Excreſcence, and the lower Orifice four Inches from the ſuperior; and then ſays, the *Anus*, which he (rightly enough) makes to uſurp the Place of the *Foſſa magna* in Women naturally conformed, was five or ſix Inches below this. According to this Proportion, the Woman muſt be really gigantick; whereas ſhe is a ſhort, little Woman: But however, Worthy Sir, you may depend upon the Account and Meaſure I have given; nor do Mr. O....'s Cuts any way repreſent the Caſe.

This Woman had no *Os*, or *Oſſa Pubis*; indeed there was an *Apophyſis* jutting out from the lower Part of each *Os Ilium*, but they were far from being join'd, as uſual, by *Synchondroſis*.

July 18. 1722. I was ſent for late at Night. I found the Woman with true Travail-Pains upon her. The Throws were exceſſive violent, and the continued Agony had almoſt quite exhauſted the poor Woman's Spirits; but the Orifice of the *Vagina* was no way ſenſibly dilated, tho' the *Anus*, thro' the Violence of the Throws, open'd extremely wide. In vain were all Endeavours to relieve her, by thruſting up the Child, and putting the Mother in a proper Poſture. Vain were her own Throws and Agonies. Convulſions now had ſeiz'd her, and Nature ſeem'd to have deny'd a longer Life to the Mother, or an Entrance into it to the Child.

I was in the utmoſt Perplexity what to do under theſe Circumſtances. On the one Hand I conſider'd, that if there was not a Paſſage made for the Child, and that by Inciſion, both Mother and Child muſt ſpeedily periſh. On the other Hand I foreſaw the Danger and Hazard of an Inciſion, and the unavoidable Cenſure of having kill'd the Woman, if ſhe ſhould die under the

Operation. At laſt Humanity ſo far prevail'd with me, as to try a doubtful Method of preſerving Life, rather than none.

I told her Mother, and the other Perſons in the Room, that Death was inevitable, without making the Paſſages wider by Inciſion, and ſo attempting a Delivery; withal apprizing them of the Uncertainty of the Event of the Operation. When they ſaw her (as they thought) juſt expiring, they deliver'd her into my Hands, to do with her what I thought fit.

I immediately thruſt my Scalpel into the inferior oblong Orifice, and directly cut into the Orifice of the *Vagina*; ſo brought them into one: Then preſently with my Sciſſors, ſnipp'd the tranſverſe Membrane. This being done, I eaſily introduced my Hand, felt the Head of the Child, and with my Finger thruſt into its Mouth, drew forth a Female Infant, living and well form'd, to my own Surprize and Admiration of all. Thus was this *Gordian* Knot, at laſt, happily cut, that cou'd not be unty'd.

Ever ſince ſhe was deliver'd, in the Manner recited, ſhe hath ſuffer'd a *Prolapſus uteri*, upon the leaſt ſtanding or walking. I propos'd to remedy this by a Suture, as is practis'd in the Caſe of the *Vulva* breaking into the *Anus*; but ſhe wou'd by no means admit of it: So that ſhe almoſt continually labours under a *Procidentia uteri*, and the Body of the Womb and *Vagina* are ſo corroded by the Acrimony of the Urine, that there are four or five Ulcers form'd upon them. Beſides this Inconvenience, ſome of the thinner Parts of the Excrement are diſcharg'd at the Bottom of this large Cleft, and by introducing my Finger at the Bottom of the Cleft, I can eaſily thruſt the Top of it thro' the *Anus*: which is an Argument that there cou'd not be 5 or 6 Inches between the oblong Orifice and the *Anus*, as is aſſert-

ed by Mr. O.:..., the Diſtance being ſcarce above two Inches.

Fowey, June 23, 1724.

FIGURARUM EXPLANATIO.

FIGURA Octava.

A. Epigaſtrium.
B. Regio umbilicalis.
C. Hypogaſtrium.
D. Regio pubis.
E E. Spongioſa offa.
F F. Meatus urinarii, a partu ſatis viſu faciles.
G. Orificium tranſverſale.
H. Oblongum orificium.
II. Cicatrices duæ, ex Urinæ, ut videtur, acrimonia.
K. Anus, paululum anteriùs locatus.

FIGURA Nona.

P P. Fiſſura magna quatuor pollices oblonga.
L. Procidentia uteri.
M. Os Tincæ.

Fig 8.

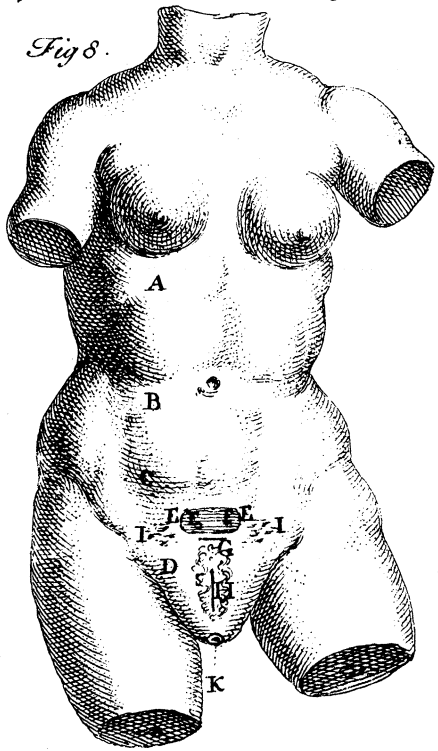
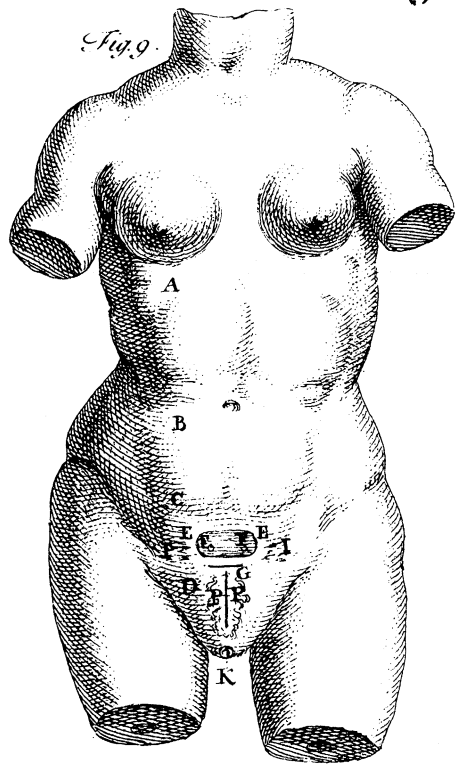
Fig 9.